

REMARKS

The present Amendment responds to the Office Action dated June 27, 2003. Claims 1 - 24 are pending in the application. Concurrently filed is a petition for a three-month extension of the period in which to respond.

The present amendment amends the claims to distinguish over the prior art and adds new claims 25 - 36 further reciting features of the claimed invention.

Applicant's Novel Voting Apparatus And Method

The present invention as recited in claims 1 and 12 (amended) provides a novel voting system and method that features validation that the candidates for whom the voter votes receive that vote and that the vote may selectively be verified, so that a missing or erroneous vote may be corrected upon presentation of a validated voter receipt for correction of the tabulation. The present invention accordingly provides for the novel validation of the voter receipt whereby the authenticity of the voter intentions as set forth on the voter validation receipt can be established at a later time if necessary to correct a vote tabulation error.

This is accomplished with a voting apparatus and method that displays information about the candidates for offices in elective races with selective voting by a voter for one of said candidates. A central processor operates to display a sequential series of ballot screens corresponding to elective races and including a candidate information block having a text name and a graphic image associated with each of at least one candidate for election by voters in the elective race. A touch-sensitive video display monitor communicates to the central processor a signal representative of a selected location of a touch by a voter, which touch is made at the display of the candidate information block for

whom the voter intends to vote. The central processor detects which of the at least one candidate information blocks was selected by the voter. A communicator transfers the vote to a tabulator for summing the votes for the selected candidate. A validator responsive to the voting by the voter endorses a voter validation receipt bearing a voter validation number with a validation indicia, whereby the authenticity of the voter validation receipt can be established at a later time if necessary to correct a vote tabulation error. An accessor responsive to the voter validation number for selectively verifying the vote with an election result of the tabulator.

Invention Set Forth In Claims (Amended)
Patentably Distinct From Prior Art

Miyagawa '099 describes an electronic voting system having display/input unit with a pin having a switch for detecting contact of the pin with the display. Ballot information is presented on the display screen with a region for selecting a candidate or writing the candidate's name. *Miyagawa '099* however does not disclose, nor teach or suggest, the invention as set forth in the independent claims 1 and 12 (amended), either alone or in combination with the other references of record. Particularly, the voter apparatus and method as claimed requires a validator responsive to the voting by the voter that endorses a voter validation receipt bearing a voter validation number with a validation indicia, whereby the authenticity of the voter validation receipt can be established at a later time if necessary to correct a vote tabulation error. An accessor responsive to the voter validation number provides for selectively verifying the vote with an election result of the tabulator, so that errors may be corrected. The features of the amended claims patentably distinguish from the prior art, and accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claim 24 as originally filed was rejected on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting. Claim 24 failed to include reference to the independent claim on which claim 24 depends.

The present amendment provides antecedent reference to independent claim 12. In view of same, the double patenting rejection is obviated.

New Claims

New dependent claims 25 - 36 are submitted in the present amendment, together with a check payable to the Commissioner For Patents in the amount of \$108 for the additional 12 claims. If the check is missing or incorrect, please charge or credit deposit account 11-0553.

Summary

In summary, it is believed that the present amendment responds fully to the issues outstanding in this application and that claims 1 - 24 (amended) and new claims 25 - 36 are in condition for allowance, and same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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